

Harry S. Truman

Aug. 14, 1952

...in mind the basic importance of maintaining an adequate maritime fleet for national defense and foreign trade, the need for keeping such a fleet modern through an orderly vessel replacement program. Equally important, however, is the general need for holding all such expenditures to their minimum essential level. This overriding need for economy requires a careful determination of the amount of Federal financial aid required to ensure a merchant fleet of adequate quality.

In particular, your study should take full advantage of whatever opportunities may exist for the industry itself to increase its operating efficiency and generally to improve its financial position. If changes in present policies are needed to permit the industry to take maximum advantage of such opportunities, please include appropriate

private recommendations for that purpose in your study. Should you conclude, after considering all of these factors, that some increase in direct subsidy would be required with the elimination of existing tax benefits, I would wish to receive your recommendations as to the amount, and most suitable form, of such increased subsidy.

I am attaching for your information a copy of the letter which I am sending at this time to the Secretary of the Treasury. In order that these studies may provide the basis for prompt legislative recommendations to the new Congress, I am requesting that they be submitted to me by October 15, 1952.

Sincerely yours,

HARRY S. TRUMAN

[The Honorable Charles Sawyer, The Secretary of Commerce]

NOTE: See also Items 211, 215.

217 Message to Dwight D. Eisenhower Inviting Him to a Luncheon and Briefing at the White House.

August 14, 1952

[Released August 14, 1952. Dated August 13, 1952]

I WOULD be most happy if you would attend a Cabinet luncheon next Tuesday the nineteenth. If you want to bring your press secretary and any other member of your staff I'll be glad to have them. If you can arrive about twelve fifteen I'll have General Smith and the Central Intelligence Agency give you a complete briefing on the foreign situation. Then we will have luncheon with the Cabinet and after that if you like I'll have my entire staff report to you on the situation in the White House and in that way you will be entirely briefed on what takes place. I've made arrangements with the Central Intelligence Agency to furnish you once a week with the world situation and I also have for Governor Stevenson.

HARRY S. TRUMAN

NOTE: The text of General Eisenhower's reply, dated August 14, follows:

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for your offer to have me briefed by certain agencies of the Government on the foreign situation. On the personal side I am also grateful for your luncheon invitation.

In my current position as standard bearer of the Republican Party and of other Americans who want to bring about a change in the National Government, it is my duty to remain free to analyze publicly the policies and acts of the present administration whenever it appears to me to be proper and in the country's interests.

During the present period the people are deciding our country's leadership for the next four years. The decision rests between the Republican nominee and the candidate you and your Cabinet are supporting and with whom you conferred before sending your message. In such circumstances and in such a period I believe our communications should be only those which are known to all the American